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FROM: Austria, Vienna

REPORT NO: EAV-6988

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: [E]

NO. OF PAGES: 3

REPORT FORWARDED BY: [E]

NO. OF ATTACHMENTS: 0

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REFERENCES: EAV-6621

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SOURCE

For the RI Main Index: Wolfgang *PFAUNDLER []

According to Source, [] also met with unidentified South Tyrolean extremist leaders and remembered, among other things, that he had put some 400,000 Schillings into the South Tyrolean movement but did not want this to come to the attention of the Austrian authorities, since it would get him in trouble. In the interest of protecting our Source, we are not disseminating this item. In view of [] somewhat precarious financial situation, we wonder if this was all his money in any case.

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FIELD INFORMATION REPORT

GRADING OF SOURCE: A: Completely reliable. B: Usually reliable. C: Fairly reliable. D: Not usually reliable. E: Not reliable. (Applied to sources of doubtful honesty or loyalty, regardless of their competence). F: Reliability cannot be judged (Applied to untested or insufficiently tested sources).

APPRAISAL OF CONTENT: 1: Confirmed by other independent and reliable sources. 2: Probably true. 3: Possibly true. 4: Doubtful. 5: Probably false. 6: Cannot be judged.

SECRET/NOFORN/CONTINUED CONTROL

COUNTRY Austria/Italy

REPORT NO. *LAF* 6988

SUBJECT Developments in the South Tyrol

DATE OF REPORT 23 November 1960

NO. PAGES 3

REFERENCES *SN* 6621

DATE OF INFO. 20 August - 10 October 1960

PLACE &

DATE ACQ. Austria, Vienna (16 November 1960)

CS 3/460,093

22 Dec 60

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE: With contacts in South Tyrolean extremist circles (F).
Appraisal of Content: 3.

Wolfgang Pfaundler and the BAS

1. Wolfgang Pfaundler, the Innsbruck journalist who has involved himself in the schemes of the South Tyrolean extremists, had over 100,000 leaflets printed for the Liberation Group for South Tyrol (Befreiungsaktion für Südtirol - BAS) in the summer of 1960. The manifesto on the leaflets was signed with the initials FLST (Freidenlegion Südtirol). The South Tyrolean resistance leaders to whom Pfaundler wished to give the leaflets objected to this appellation and stated that their movement consisted of genuinely local Tyrolean patriots, not of foreign legionnaires, and that the name Befreiungsaktion für Südtirol had been chosen after mature deliberation. Pfaundler argued then that any effective underground activity financed and supplied purely from within the South Tyrol was impossible and that the designation FLST was therefore quite in order. When the BAS leaders remained adamant, Pfaundler threatened to destroy the already-printed leaflets.¹
2. In the summer of 1960 Pfaundler promised to deliver the BAS some "walkie-talkie" portable radio transmitter-receivers, but after some months passed and the equipment did not materialize, the BAS leaders became disenchanted with Pfaundler and complained that he had also promised other things in the past and had not kept his promises.
3. On 20 August 1960, Pfaundler met at the Pension Elisabeth in Innsbruck with five South Tyroleans to discuss the activities of the various South Tyrolean resistance groups.

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South Tyrolean Demolition Groups

4. In the late summer of 1960 there were 24 trained demolition groups on hand in the South Tyrol with targets already assigned. They claimed that they had enough explosives on hand to do their work when the time came. They are so organized that the arrest of individual members will not expose the operation. The individual members do not know one another.

Views of SVP Chairman Magnago

5. Dr. Silvius Magnago, Chairman of the South Tyrolean People's Party (SVP), feels that his people should work primarily for a status of special autonomy and should not press for self-determination. The Roman Catholic clergy in the region, led by Bishop Josef Gargitter of Brixen, agrees with this point of view.

Innsbruck Conference on UN Strategy

6. On 7 September 1960 a meeting was held at the Innsbruck Landhaus at the invitation of the Governor of the Tyrol, Hans Tschiggfrey, to discuss the strategy that Austria should follow at the United Nations Assembly on the question of the South Tyrol. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Bruno Kreisky, State Secretary Franz Gschnitzer, and the Foreign Ministry officials Dr. Simon Koller, Dr. Johann Dengler, Dr. Wilhelm Apfel, and Dr. Kurt Waldheim. The Tyrolean officials present were Governor Tschiggfrey, Dr. Aloys Oberhammer, Nationalrat Rupert Zechtl, Dr. Hubert Senn, and Dr. Viktoria Stadelmayer (or Stadlmair). The South Tyrolean politicians at the meeting were Dr. Silvius Magnago, Dr. Alfons Benedikter, Dr. Friedl Volgger, Dr. Hans Stanek, Dr. Hans Dietl, and Dr. Tinzl (fnu). At the meeting, which lasted from 10:30 a.m. until 2:10 p.m., the composition of the Austrian UN delegation was also discussed. It was decided not to include the Freedom Party's (FPÖ) nominee, Nationalrat Klaus Mahnert, since his presence could have given rise to Italian complaints that the Austrians were being advised by former Nazis.

Quashing of Plans for a Demonstration

7. At the initiative of Dr. Aloys Oberhammer, plans were drafted for a pilgrimage to be made on 25 September 1960 to Maria Trens, near Sterzing in the South Tyrol. In addition to the South Tyrolean pilgrims, a delegation from the North Tyrol was also to be present. After a sermon by Dean (Dekan) Flach (fnu) of Sterzing, a speech was to have been made by Pichler (fnu), a teacher from Schenach, near Merano, outside the church of Maria Trens. Following the speech, a "spontaneous" demonstration was to have been staged, and it was hoped that this would be brutally dispersed by the Italian police. This incident could then be exploited for propaganda purposes. When the Bishop of Brixen, who is hated by the South Tyrolean extremists as a friend of the Italians, heard of the plans for the pilgrimage, he announced the intention of delivering the sermon at Maria Trens himself. However, when he learned of the true character of the affair, he forbade the pilgrimage and decreed a day of prayer and penance instead.

Canadian TV Operations in the South Tyrol

8. Between 26 and 29 August 1960 the Canadian television producer, Erik Carl Durschmied, born 25 December 1930 in Vienna, holding Canadian passport No. 641935, took a series of pictures in various parts of the South Tyrol. He stated that he hoped upon the outbreak of hostilities in the South Tyrol to sell these film sequences to television corporations. Durschmied had previously done work in Cyprus and Cuba.

BAS Threat to an Innsbruck Newspaper

9. On 5 September 1960 the Tiroler Tageszeitung of Innsbruck published an editorial strongly criticizing the Austrian Foreign Ministry for bringing the South Tyrolean problem before the United Nations. Subsequently the

chief editor and assistant editor of the newspaper received identical letters, signed "BAS" and dated 10 September 1960, which warned them that steps would be taken against their personal safety if a retraction of the editorial stand of 5 September was not printed by 17 September. The letter ended: "Be assured that the Brenner frontier gives you no reason to feel secure! This we guarantee you. The BAS."

1. Field Comment: This episode would tend to give weight to the suspicion voiced in ZNY 6537 of 13 April 1960 that the Fremdenlegion Südtirol is a figment of Pfaundler's imagination and is generally synonymous with the BAS. Source comments, however, that there are many independent dissident groups in the South Tyrol which are not affiliated with the BAS and which espouse a more radical policy than the BAS. These splinter groups are independent of each other as well as of the BAS and have no central control organization. It is possible then that FLS or FLST does not denote an organization, but is a term used by Pfaundler and his associates in Austria in reference to their activities in support of various extremist groups in the South Tyrol.